

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5044
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USUN NY

UNCLAS ATHENS 2294

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, GR, LE, IS
SUBJECT: ARAB AND ISRAELI DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS ISSUE STATEMENTS
ON LEBANON

1. THE HEADS OF ARAB DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN ATHENS (REPRESENTING THE ARAB GOVERNMENTS WHOSE CAPITALS ARE ADDRESSEES OF THIS MESSAGE) ISSUED A JOINT STATEMENT MARCH 18 CONDEMNING THE ISRAELI INVASION OF SOUTHERN LEBANON. THE ISRAELI DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION HERE (THERE IS NO EMBASSY) ISSUED A REBUTTAL ON MARCH 19.

2. ACCORDING TO THE SEMI-OFFICIAL ATHENS NEWS AGENCY (ANA) BULLETIN, THE ARAB STATEMENT WAS AS FOLLOWS:

"THE UNJUSTIFIED ISRAELI INVASION OF THE SOIL OF THE LEBANESE REPUBLIC IS VIEWED AS A TRANSGRESSION OF THE PRINCIPLES ON WHICH THE UNITED NATIONS HAVE BEEN FOUNDED AND AS A VIOLATION OF THE
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SOVEREIGN
RIGHTS AND INTEGRITY OF LEBANON.

"THIS ENEMY INVASION IS VERY SERIOUS, BECAUSE IT AIMS AT THE GENOCIDE OF PALESTINIANS FOR THE SIMPLE REASON THAT THESE PEOPLE HAPPEN TO BE PALESTINIANS. THIS A WELL ORGANIZED ENDEAVOR TO ANNIHILATE THE PEOPLE OF PALESTINE, WHO HAVE BEEN FORCED TO DEPART FROM THEIR COUNTRY AND LOSE ALL THEIR NATIONAL RIGHTS FOR

THE PAST 30 YEARS BECAUSE OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ZIONIST TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS.

"THIS NEW INVASION DOES NOT LEAVE ANY DOUBTS CONCERNING THE EXPANSIONIST PLANS OF THE ISRAELIS AT THE EXPENSE OF ARAB

TERRITORIES.

"THE LEADERS OF ARAB DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN ATHENS STRONGLY COND-

EMN THIS UNJUSTIFIED AND INHUMAN INVASION, AND CALL ON ALL PEACE-LOVING PEOPLES OF THE WORLD, AND ESPECIALLY ON THE FRIENDLY PEOPLE OF GREECE, TO CONDEMN THIS INVASION AND DEMAND THAT THE INVADERS WITHDRAW FROM LEBANESE SOIL."

3. THE ISRAELI MISSION'S RESPONSE, ALSO ACCORDING TO THE ANA BULLETIN, WAS AS FOLLOWS:

"IN OUR WISH TO RESPECT THE BASIC RULES THAT STIPULATE THAT ONE SHOULD NOT TRANSFER BILATERAL DISPUTES TO A HOST COUNTRY, WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF REPLYING TO THE COMMUNIQUE WHICH WAS ISSUED BY CERTAIN FOREIGN EMBASSIES IN GREECE.

"THE GREEK PEOPLE, WHO LOVE PEACE AND ALSO HAVE A PASSION FOR DEMOCRACY, WILL SURELY BE ABLE TO JUDGE FOR THEMSELVES FACTS WHICH ARE ALREADY KNOWN, AND THUS CONCLUDE WHO ARE THE TERRORISTS WHO HAVE INDISCRIMINATELY KILLED PEACEFUL CITIZENS (MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN), CARRIED OUT HIJACKINGS, PLANTED BOMBS, AND SEIZED AND MURDERED INNOCENT HOSTAGES FOR ALLEGEDLY POLITICAL REASONS, UNCLASSIFIED

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AND WHICH ARE THE MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRIES THAT HAVE CARRIED OUT ACTS OF GENOCIDE IN RECENT YEARS AGAINST THE PALESTINIAN AND LEBANESE PEOPLES."

4. NEITHER STATEMENT WAS REPORTED IN THE ATHENS PRESS TODAY, MARCH 20. THE GOG HAS MADE NO STATEMENT CONCERNING RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN LEBANON.

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